

of Terrorism Act that just passed the Senate 95 to 0. That legislation, of which I was a chief cosponsor, will make it easier for American victims of terrorism abroad to collect court-awarded compensation and to ensure that the responsible state sponsors of terrorism pay a price for their crimes. The act also contained an amendment I authored with Senator PATRICK LEAHY that will provide faster and better assistance to victims of terrorism abroad. This legislation, which has passed the House as well, will now go the desk of President Clinton, who will sign it.

While I strongly support assisting terrorist victims, I also believe that we need to do more to prevent Americans from becoming victims of terrorism in the first place. And I believe that we should act now—before terrorists strike again, killing and injuring more Americans and leaving more families grieving. I urge Congress to act pass S. 3205 before we adjourn.●

CONGRESS MUST ADDRESS INEQUITIES SUFFERED BY FEDERAL RETIREES

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Congress and the President on the recent enactment of S. 2420, the bill to provide long-term healthcare insurance for federal employees. As the nation's largest employer, we have set an example for the private sector in establishing a long-term care insurance program for federal workers and retirees. At least thirteen million people are expected to benefit from this far-sighted effort, but there is more work to be done on those issues affecting current and former Federal employees. Today, I wish to highlight three proposals on which I have received much correspondence from my constituents: repeal of the Government Pension Offset, GPO, elimination of the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision, WEP; and, health insurance premium conversion availability.

I am a cosponsor of S. 717, Senator MIKULSKI's proposal to reform the GPO. Additionally, I am a supporter of initiatives in the House of Representatives to eliminate the WEP. Both pieces of legislation alleviate current laws that block Federal annuitants and their spouses from collecting full Social Security benefits. Because of the current budget rules requiring the offsetting of spending cuts or tax increases, passage of these reforms have been complicated.

We should not penalize people who have worked hard and contributed to the country simply because they worked for the Federal government and receive a Federal pension. This Senate must consider these bills a priority, and seriously review the offsets necessary to achieve these essential and

fair changes. I believe that we need to enforce a budget discipline which will balance the budget without borrowing payroll tax dollars from the Social Security trust fund and any other federal trust funds. However, now that the budget is balanced, we should first restore the change that helped bring us toward fiscal soundness.

Finally, I wish to address the availability of health insurance premium conversion arrangements. As my colleagues may be aware, no Senate legislation has been introduced, but H.R. 4277 has been introduced in the House. Under the provisions of this bill, the Office of Personnel Management, OPM, would be directed to take necessary measures to ensure that enrollees have the option to paying charges out of pre-tax earnings. This would ensure equal premium tax treatment for federal workers and retirees. I urge my House and Senate colleagues to provide full consideration to this legislation, and bring Federal employees and retirees pay and benefit equity and fairness.

Mr. President, these are just three issues of concern to me and my constituents. While enactment of the long-term care bill was a great step forward, I must reiterate my call for more work to be done. I am hopeful that we may make a serious effort on this legislation on the few remaining days of the 106th Congress. These concerns will not go away, and I know we will surely be hearing about the GPO, WEP, and premium conversion in the next Congress as we do not take action this year.

225TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 225th birthday to the United States Navy, by passing Senate Resolution 373. Several of the Senate's other veterans of naval service have joined me in sponsoring this resolution and I thank Senator MCCAIN, Senator MOYNIHAN, Senator WARNER, Senator COCHRAN, Senator ROBB, Senator BOB SMITH, Senator MILLER, Senator BOB KERREY and Senator JOHN KERRY.

While we like to celebrate on a birthday, we must pause in solemn reflection, for yesterday, the Navy family suffered a tragic loss. I send my heartfelt condolences to the U.S.S. *Cole* and her extended family. Like thousands of Sailors before them, these brave men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. The loss is felt by the entire nation, and the entire nation grieves with you and expresses gratitude for your sacrifice.

October 13, 1775, was the day that the Continental Congress established a "Naval Committee" to acquire and fit out vessels for sea and draw up regulations. By the following month the committee procured two ships, two brigs

and later two sloops and two schooners. From these modest beginnings, the greatest Navy in the world has grown. Down through the years, the Navy has been central to the history of this nation, and ever-integral to her longevity and prosperity.

Mr. President, I had the honor of serving in the Navy. Perhaps my greatest honor during my service as a young naval intelligence officer was working for Admiral Arleigh "31-Knot" Burke, when he was Chief of Naval Operations. A heroic WWII destroyer squadron commander, Admiral Burke was truly a man of vision. Under his tutelage I learned valuable lessons about the Navy's place in our history, but also about the key role it plays today in economics, science, politics, and international relations. Then as now, the world was an uncertain place, and the Navy played a vital role in calming the waters.

Admiral Burke is the namesake for the class of destroyers to which the U.S.S. *Cole* belongs. The *Cole* tragedy brings the spotlight on the Navy and the day-in, day-out honor, courage and commitment of her sailors. At the commissioning of the lead ship in the class, Admiral Burke stated fittingly "This ship is built to fight, you had better know how." A quote reminiscent of Captain John Paul Jones legendary declaration: "I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast, for I intend to go in harm's way." These are the best ships in the world, manned by the world's best Sailors, but they are not impregnable fortresses, they do sail in harm's way.

Many have expressed incredulity at the attack on the warship *Cole*. But, she was in a vulnerable situation—coming pierside to replenish fuel in a presumed-benign environment. The task that was to occupy *Cole* and her crew over the next several months—maritime interdiction duty in the Persian Gulf—was more precarious. Ships refuel in foreign ports daily as they have for many years. But this tragedy is a reminder that the peace and prosperity we enjoy is not without cost, nor are the commitments we make to our allies.

The U.S.S. *Cole* is one of the Navy's finest warships—one of 318 operational ships. 4108 Navy aircraft are also operational today. 42 percent of those ships are away from homeport and 32 percent, like the *Cole* and the U.S.S. *George Washington* Battlegroup, of which she was a member, are deployed. These numbers provide a snapshot of the Navy's diligence around the globe. Their involvement in contingency operations over the last 10 years is also very telling. From 1946 to 1989 (44 years) the U.S. Navy responded to 195 crises, while from 1990 to 1999 (10 years) the Navy responded to 122 crises. Such optempos demand much of the men and women in uniform, and their loved ones

back home. It also places tremendous stress on our ships and aircraft. While deployed battlegroups have maintained their readiness, they often do so at the expense of non-deployed units. In my view, we must maintain our commitment to support the fleet and ensure they continue to be the best equipped in the world. We have a distinct responsibility to our Navy, not to blindly increase ship production in response to rampant deployment rates, but to ensure we are ready to face clearly defined missions and threats.

Today, as in the future, America relies on its Navy. For 225 years, the Navy has responded to each new demand and comes through in the clutch. Ever-present, around the globe, minutes away from crises as they occur, today's Navy is deterring would-be aggressors; and providing fledgling democracies with visible reassurance of U.S. support. Daily, Navy men and women are our ambassadors in ports of call and as participants in multinational operations and exercises. As one of the eleven members of this Senate to have worn the Navy uniform, I am pleased to share my pride in our sea service with all who have worn Navy blue down through the years. I also send greetings to the 373,910 men and women on active duty today, the 182,970 ready reservists, and the extended Navy family of civilian personnel, families and loved ones.

As we celebrate this 225th birthday, I close solemnly, and offer the first verse of the Navy Hymn in memory of those who have most recently perished in service to their Navy and their country:

Eternal Father, Strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bid'st the mighty Ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee,
for those in peril on the sea.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR BOLDUC

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Monsignor Norman P. Bolduc, 48, Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester, as New Hampshire mourns his tragic loss.

Monsignor Bolduc was ordained a priest in April 1979 after entering his religious training at Saint Thomas Seminary in Connecticut at the tender age of 13. As a Lieutenant Colonel, Monsignor Bolduc served as a Chaplain of the United States Air Force Reserves. He earned a master's in philosophy at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he also earned his licentiate in Canon law.

Upon the recommendation of Bishop Odore Gendron, the seventh Bishop of Manchester, Pope John Paul II ap-

pointed Reverend Norman Bolduc as a Chaplain to His Holiness with the title of Monsignor in 1991. As Chancellor, Monsignor Bolduc was the third-ranking official in the diocese. He served as the bishop's Secretary for Pastoral Services and represented the bishop in Concord, New Hampshire, speaking on legislative matters. Reverend Edward Arsenault, Secretary for Administration of the diocese, noted Monsignor Bolduc's keen intellect and his "great ability to explain and teach the church's teaching. He was a noted and gifted homilist."

Monsignor Bolduc was a talented baseball player, an avid golfer and had a passion for travel, often traveling to foreign lands. Many New Hampshire residents were fortunate to share his love of travel and accompanied him on pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Monsignor Bolduc was the eldest of seven children. He was the loving son of Norman Sr. and Cecile Bolduc of Laconia, New Hampshire. Monsignor Bolduc was a caring brother and devoted uncle to his eleven nieces and nephews. He enjoyed his family life and cherished the time he spent with all of them.

As Bishop John B. McCormack remembered his faithful and devoted colleague during the Funeral Mass celebrated at Saint Joseph's Cathedral he reminded us all that, "It is clear that God does give, but God also takes away. It is clear whether we live or die, we are all the Lord's." Monsignor Bolduc honorably served our nation and the Roman Catholic Church and will be greatly missed by all those who were blessed by his presence and ministry. As Holy Scripture says in Psalm 116, "Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of the faithful ones." May God bless Norman Sr., Cecile and Monsignor Bolduc's siblings, nieces and nephews as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

I am honored to have served the Reverend Monsignor Norman Bolduc in the United States Senate. May God bless him and grant him eternal peace.●

DONALD L. BEMIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL NAMED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL FOR 1999-2000

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, in 1982, the United States Department of Education initiated its Blue Ribbon Schools Program. In each year since, the Department has recognized schools throughout the country which excel in all areas of academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum. In other words, Blue Ribbon Schools are the finest public and private secondary schools our Nation has to offer. They are the schools that set the standard for which others strive. I am very proud to report that nine of the 198 Blue Ribbon Schools named by Secretary Richard W. Riley for 1999-2000 are located in the

State of Michigan, and I rise today to recognize Donald L. Bemis Junior High School in Sterling Heights, Michigan, one of these nine schools.

The mission of Donald L. Bemis Junior High is to educate its students in the development of knowledge, problem solving, and acceptance of others. Curriculum places primary emphasis on basic skills to promote essential knowledge and challenge students to achieve at the highest levels they are capable of attaining. Students are taught tolerance as conflict resolution strategies have been integrated into this curriculum. In addition, character building is taught and modeled within the school climate. The whole of this curriculum is designed to provide students with the building blocks they need to construct positive ideals which they can carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Technology has recently begun to play a large role in the program as well. Each classroom at Bemis is equipped with a television and VCR, allowing students to be a part of a worldwide telecommunications system and providing teachers with audio-visual communication throughout the entire school. There are at least two computers in each classroom, which are hooked up to two building servers as well as the Internet. Bemis also has three computer laboratories, from which teachers and students can easily access personal files which have been set up for them. There is no doubt that technology is revolutionizing the way that students are taught throughout our Nation. There is also no doubt that Bemis Junior High has been on the forefront of employing it for positive purposes.

Perhaps the greatest key to the success of Bemis Junior High though has been the collaborative decision making process which has been developed by parents, teachers and students. This process involved an overall dedication to the Bemis Junior High community, and relies upon keeping lines of communication open through parental contacts, open houses, parent-teacher conferences, the Parent Sounding Board, and the Student Council. Also present and a part of this process is the School Improvement Team, made up of staff and students focusing upon issues to enhance student achievement. All of these efforts lead to a well informed school community, which has been the most important aspect in the development of Bemis Junior High.

Mr. President, I applaud the students, parents, faculty and administration of Bemis Junior High, for I believe this is an award which speaks more to the effort of a united community than it does to the work of a few individuals. With that having been said, I would like to recognize Mrs. Joyce A. Spade, Principal of Bemis Junior High, whose dedication to making her school one of